

# NEW-YORK DAILY TRIBUNE, SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1884.—TEN PAGES.

## LITERARY NOTES.

"Stratford by the Sea" is the title of the forthcoming number of the American Novel Series published by the Houghton Mifflin & Co.

Mrs. John Sherwood's book of etiquette, entitled "Manners and Social Customs in America," is coming from the Harper's press. They are also bringing out a new library edition in seven volumes of Coleridge's works, with an index by Mr. Arthur Gilman.

It is related concerning Mr. Tennyson that he had just gone to live near Blackdown, and one night he lost his way while rambling about. A woman standing at the door of a cottage did her best to set him right, and in doing so described one corner of his own house, saying: "You will see it as you turn the corner by a clump of yew trees. Some one's come to live there from Lunnon. They say he's a queer un'. He's a actor, or does writin' or summunt of that sort; but he's a queer un', is he. He goes about more like a beggar nor anything else!" "Oh, said Tennyson, "have you seen him?" "No, I can't say as I've seen 'un'; but that's what I hear. He goes about just for all like a beggar."

W. J. Linton, the engraver, is living in London, and is busily engaged in researches at the British Museum, with a view to writing a History of Wood Engravings.

Mr. William Cullen Bryant's prose writings, which will appear this spring, will fill two large volumes.

A cheap edition of E. P. Roe's "Opening a Chestnut-nut" is in the press of Dodd, Mead & Co.

In 1850, when the name of the "library man"—Mr. Mudie—was just becoming known, he was invited to a brilliant reception given by Lady Ashburnham. During the evening he found himself standing near Carlyle, who at once singled him out, and, looking him full in the face, said in his briskest manner, with his broad Doric accent: "So, you're the man that divides the sheep from the goats!" Ah! he went on, giving strong emphasis to his words—"it's an awful thing to judge a man. It's a more awful thing to judge a book. For a book has a life beyond a life. But it is with books as it is with men. Broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many there be that go in theret; and narrow is the way that leads to life, and few there be that find it." Mr. Mudie held his ground boldly enough when thus attacked as the man who had set himself up as a censor librorum. "In my business," he said, "I profess to judge books only from a commercial standpoint, though it is ever my object to circulate good books and not bad ones." Mr. Mudie has learned to appraise the commercial value of a book to a nicely. "I judge, of course," he declares, "by the imprint in some measure, and the reputation of the author. It is seldom indeed that a book is sent to me on publication." His influence with author and publisher is great, and it is good news to the author to hear that "Mudie's" have taken a large number of his work. Thackeray, for instance, was greatly delighted when he heard that the library had taken a large number of "Esmond." Indeed he made a small not when the news reached him: "Mudie has taken all those copies! Oh! Evans!" To understand this, one must know that Messrs. Bradbury & Evans were his publishers in those days, and Mr. Evans was sometimes not happy in his aspirates.

Mr. G. P. Lathrop's new novel, entitled "True," will be published by Funk & Wagnalls. The same firm have in press "49—A Story of the Sierras," by Joaquin Miller.

In a recent letter addressed to the Editor of *The Christian Advocate* George Bancroft says: "Certainly our great united Commonwealth is the child of Christianity: it may with equal truth be asserted that modern civilization sprung into life with our religion; and faith in its principles is the life-blood on which humanity has at divers times escaped the most threatening perils."

Colonel Higgins declares that it has always seemed to him creditable to the brains of children that they dislike what we call the study of history. "It is surely unfair to blame them," he says, "when they certainly like it quite as well as do their parents. The father brings home to his little son, from the public library, the first volume of Hilditch's "United States" and says to him, 'There my son, is a book for you, and there are five more volumes just like it.' Then he goes back to his *Saturday Herald*, and his wife rovers to it, but yet a woman's or 'Mr. Isaacs'! both feeling that they have done their duty to the child's mind. Would they ever read through the six volumes of Hilditch consecutively for themselves? It is idle to say, 'But children prefer fiction to fact.' Not at all; they prefer fact to fiction, if it is only made equally interesting. Tell a boy a story which he supposes to be true, and then disclose that it is all an invention. If the boy preferred fiction to fact he would be pleased. Not at all: he is disappointed. On the other hand, if, after telling some absorbing and marvelous tale, you can honestly add, 'My dear child, all this really happened to your father when he was little,' or 'to your respected great-grandmother,' the child is delighted."

Mr. Edgar Fawcett will soon publish, with J. R. Osgood & Co., of Boston, his new volume of poems, "Song and Story." The chief poem in "Song and Story" is entitled "Alan Elliot," and narrates in blank verse the history of a secret fratricidal crime, followed by its revelation while the murderer is in a state of somnambulism. Mr. Fawcett considers "Alan Elliot" in many respects the strongest and most dramatic poem he has yet given to the world. Other poems in the volume are "The Republic," fan fair, read at Harvard College by its author in 1879 before the Phi Beta Kappa Society; "The Rivers" (a long lyrical piece read in the previous year before the Alpha Delta Phi Society of Yale at Chipping Hall); and various other poems printed at different times in the magazines and journals. It is now six years since Mr. Fawcett published his last book of poems, "Fantasy and Passion."

The late Lord Lytton was deeply attached to his first wife—who was the sister of Mrs. Gladstone—and when he lost her, found it is said, more comfort in Longfellow's poem "Footsteps of Angels" than in any other verse with which he was acquainted.

Robert Collier is preparing for *The Current* a series of papers under the title of "Notes from my Note-Books."

Mr. Bret Harte's new volume of Short Stories will be published soon by Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

Mr. Francis H. Underwood's recent biography of Whittier was inscribed by permission to John Bright, who in acknowledging the receipt of the work pays the following tribute to the poet: "I thank you for sending me your volume, the life of our friend J. G. Whittier—it is to me a very interesting record of the life and services of a man for whom I feel a warm affection and a more than common reverence. I hope and believe that his writings will obtain an increasing circulation in this country. Wherever they are read they will add strength to every good and noble cause. I often regret that I have not been able to visit your country, and the special ground for that regret is that I have not had the opportunity of making the personal acquaintance of your distinguished Poet. Not the slave only on your continent, but the suffering and the oppressed in every land, owe much to his genius and his pen, and the more goodness extends among men the more will his writings be cherished and admired."

Miss Mary F. Robinson's book of poems "The New Arcadia" is coming from the press of Roberts Brothers. They are also about to bring out "The Usurper," a novel written by Thophile Gautier's daughter, and translated by Miss Alger.

A Canadian lawyer and ex-Postmaster-General, the Hon. L. S. Huntington, has written a novel which he calls "Professor Conant," and which will be published by R. Worthington.

A steel portrait of Margaret Fuller will be presented to the biography which Colonel Higgins is

about to publish through the house of Houghton Mifflin & Co.

Lady Brassey's new book of travel will be brought out by Henry Holt & Co.

## BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

JACK'S COTSWOLD, By W. Clark Russell (Harper's Franklin Square Library).

GOLDEN GATE SKETCHES, By the Hon. Charles A. Shober, 16mo. pp. 138. Paper. (W. B. Smith & Co.)

THE DANCE OF MODERN SOCIETY, By William Cleaver Wilkinson, 12mo. pp. 78. (Funk & Wagnalls.)

OUR BUSINESS BOYS, By the Rev. F. E. Clark, 16mo. pp. 66. (Boston: D. Lothrop & Co.)

HEALTH AND STRENGTH FOR GIRLS, By Mary J. Saxford, 16mo. pp. 160. (Boston: D. Lothrop & Co.)

A CUP OF TEA Containing a History of the Tea Plant, By Joseph M. Walsh, 16mo. pp. 196. (Philadelphia: The Author.)

ECHOES FROM HOMELAND AND WHITE HORSE, By Anna Lydon, 16mo. pp. 250. (Boston: D. Lothrop & Co.)

LIFE AND WORK OF WILLIAM AUGUSTUS MUDLENDEN, By Anna Avera, 12mo. pp. 524. (Adams D. F. Randol & Co.)

ENDOME OF UNIVERSAL HISTORY, By Carl Flotz, Berlin: William H. Tillingslach, 8vo. pp. 618. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)

CERICAL AND EXEMPTIAL HAND-BOOK TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE ROMANS, By Heinrich A. W. Meyer, 8vo. pp. 588. (Funk & Wagnalls.)

ASTORIAN LIFE, By Joseph Parker, D. D. Vol. I. Svo. pp. 354. (Funk & Wagnalls.)

HARPER'S OLD ORGAN OR HOME, SWEET HOME, By Mrs. Walton, 16mo. pp. 164. (Robert Carter & Brothers.)

EXTENSIVE LIST OF SCHOLARS, By William H. Taylor, 16mo. pp. 900. (New York: S. J. Augustus.)

ECHOES FROM THE ORATORY, Selections from the Poems of the Rev. John H. Greenleaf, 16mo. pp. 61. (Funk & Wagnalls.)

THE SCHAFF-HERZOG ENCYCLOPEDIA OF RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE, Edited by Philip Schaff, Imp. Svo. Vol. 3. (Funk & Wagnalls.)

CHRISTIAN'S OLD ORGAN OR HOME, SWEET HOME, By Mrs. Walton, 16mo. pp. 164. (Robert Carter & Brothers.)

THE HOYT-WARD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF QUOTATIONS, By Philip Schaff, D. D. LL. D.

A GREAT WORK COMPLETED, By W. CLARK RUSSELL, author of "The Wreck of the Gravemor." A SONG OF QUEEN," &c. No. 372 in Harper's Franklin Square Library.

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